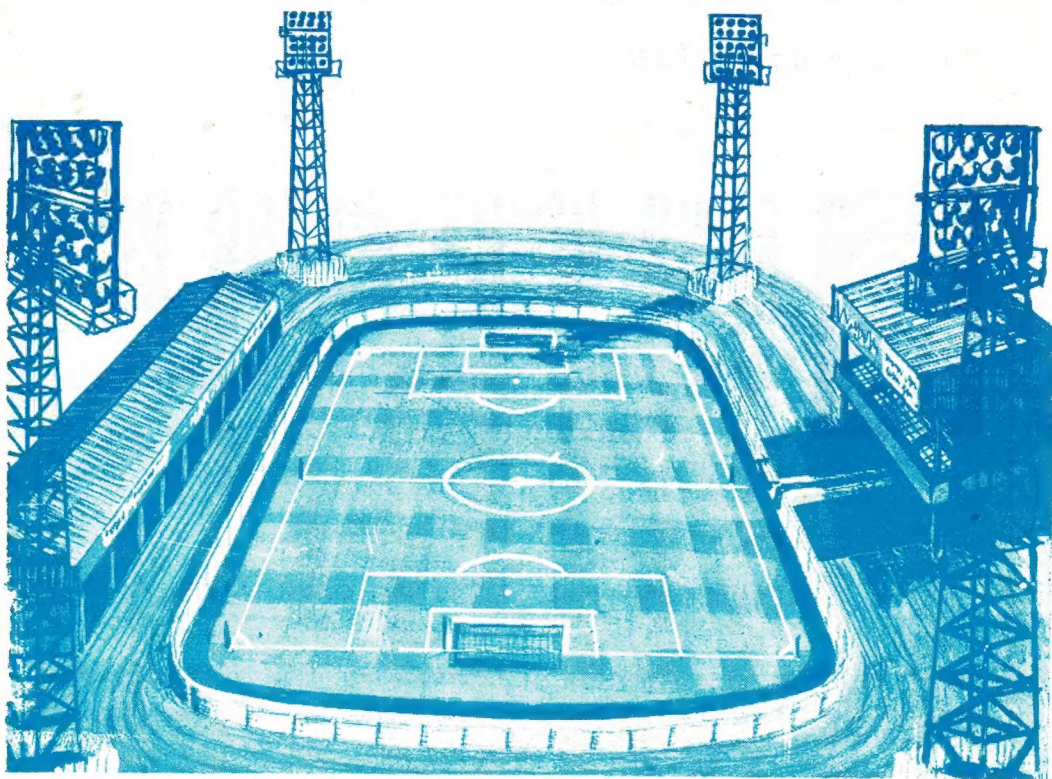


ATHLETIC

WIGAN

Souvenir Programme 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

v.

GRIMSBY TOWN

Wednesday, 23rd August, 1978

Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

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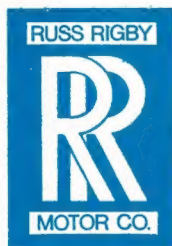
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Dr. G. MENON

TODAY for our first ever home game in the Football League, we are proud to welcome Grimsby Town, one of the original members of the Football League, Div. 2, in 1892. Grimsby have served in all Divisions of the Football League and after today's game will have the remarkable distinction of having played, at some time, all other 91 League clubs in a Football League game.

Grimsby Town play at Blundell Park, Cleethorpes, a pleasant ground which has a capacity of over 30,000. In 1937, a crowd of 31,654 watched them play Wolves in the F.A. Cup—this was a ground record.

Previous managers of Grimsby Town have included Bill Shankly and Laurie McMenemy, together with Charlie Spencer (Wigan's first manager) and Allenby Chilton, who was also at Wigan in the 1950's.

When Charlie Spencer was appointed as manager of Grimsby in 1938, he promised to bring his team to Wigan for a money raising friendly game. War, however, made this impossible during the period 1938-39, but after hostilities ceased, the club honoured their promise and sent their First Division side to Wigan. This game was watched by over 16,000 spectators.

Some of their famous players have included Jackie Bestall, George Tweedy and J. Scott, all internationals. Wigan and Grimsby last met at Blundell Park, in the F.A. Cup first round, in November 1972, when the result was Grimsby 2, Wigan 1. the attendance was 11,568.

A word from the Manager

GOOD EVENING ALL.

We give a very warm welcome this evening to Grimsby Town Football Club. 'The Mariners' are managed by an ex-team mate of mine at Leicester City, Johnny Newman.

Johnny in his day was an extremely hard, aggressive wing-half, and I am sure those qualities will be shown by his team this evening.

They have started with two extremely good matches in the League Cup, scoring five goals without reply against York City, so we can expect a tough game this evening.

THE TRANMERE GAMES

I was really proud of the way the lads performed against Tranmere Rovers, especially the game at Prenton Park, as this was a real tough opener for us to go to a Third Division side who were in the running for promotion last year.

I think I am justified in saying that we beat them well over two games and they could have no cause for complaint. The draw however for the Second Round wasn't to kind to us and an away trip to Luton is a very difficult hurdle to overcome. But we thought the same about Tranmere, and we made it, so we have a good chance of getting at least a draw.

Our draw at Hereford on Saturday in our first League game was a real confidence booster for the lads, and we hope to go from strength to strength in future matches.

I trust you will get behind us tonight in an effort to secure our first home League points of the season. Enjoy tonight's match.

IAN McNEILL,
Manager.

Forthcoming Fixtures

NEXT HOME LEAGUE MATCH—FOOTBALL LEAGUE—DIVISION 4

SATURDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER, 1978

WIGAN ATHLETIC v. NEWPORT COUNTY

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

FRIDAY, 25th AUGUST, 1978

WIGAN ATHLETIC RESERVES v. SOUTHPORT RESERVES

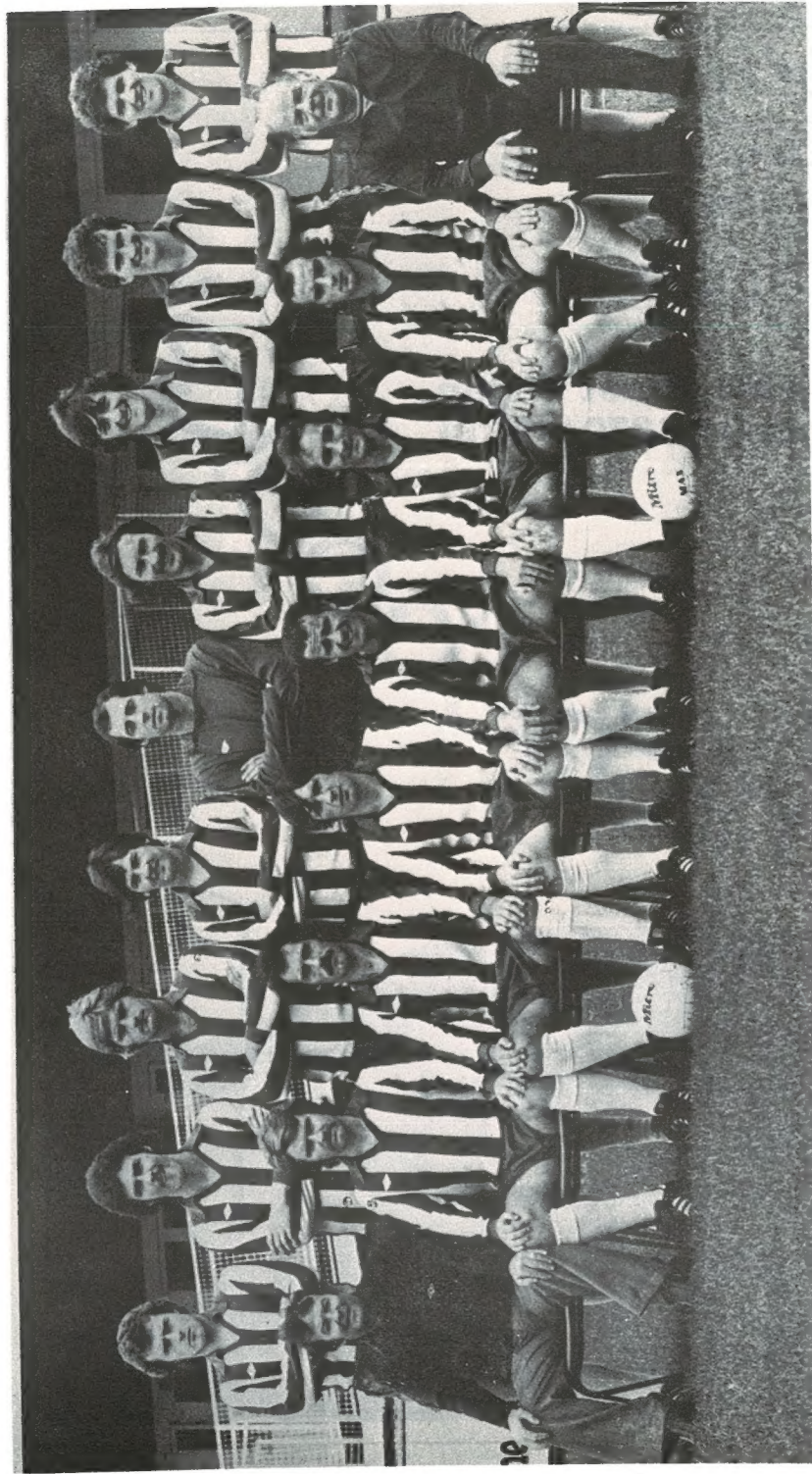
Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

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WIGAN ATHLETIC A.F.C. — SEASON 1978-79

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 Front Row : I. McNEILL (Manager), A. CROMPTON, I. SEDDON, T. GORE, I. GILLIBRAND, J. WILKIE, I. PURDIE, K. BANKS (Trainer)

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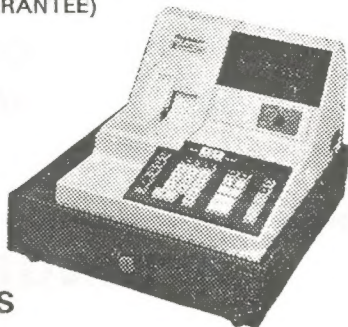
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DOWN MEMORY LANE

As this is the first ever Football League programme to be published by Wigan Athletic, it seems fitting that it should include a "walk down memory lane."

Eleven Wigan business men formed the club in 1932, and I am sure they would all have been proud men had they been alive today—they would also I feel sure, have been very surprised that it took 46 years to achieve this promotion.

Wigan Athletic, like most non-league clubs, has survived a number of hard times. The war years for instance, were probably the hardest of all, but on the whole the club has always been known as the top non-league club in the country, and that reputation has no doubt helped in gaining League status.

It is only on rare occasions that the club has failed to gain a place in the 1st Round of the F.A. Cup, and on three occasions gained a place in the 3rd Round—namely Millwall (1936), Manchester City (1972) and Birmingham (1978), and in 1973 (although losing) had the distinction of playing at Wembley in the F.A. Trophy Final.

Probably one of the best players to leave Wigan was local boy Johnnie Ball who was signed by Manchester United in 1948; from there he went to Bolton and captained the side for many years—he played in the 1953 F.A. Cup Final—"the Matthew's final."

Great players who have played for Wigan over the years include Gordon Milne, Allan Brown, Jimmy Milne and Charlie Spencer. They were all internationals. Charlie Spencer eventually became manager of Grimsby; Allan Brown has seen service at Luton, Torquay, Notts Forest, Bury and Blackpool; Jimmy Milne went on to manage Preston N.E. and his son Gordon, is now manager of Coventry City.

**LOCATION OF
FOURTH DIVISION CLUBS
1978-79**



LATICS LINE

by Nick Duxbury



It didn't take long for Wigan Athletic to provide the fans with their own Football League heroes, thanks to Tommy Gore and Frank Corrigan stealing the limelight in the debut League Cup triumph over Third Division Tranmere Rovers.

You will be lucky to see a goal like Gore's 40 yards last gasp equaliser at Tranmere repeated this season, if ever, while Corrigan's two goals in the second leg at Springfield Park were a real treat.

All goals are good ones when it is your team doing the scoring, but Gore and Corrigan conspired to produce a trio of memorable moments, fitting to a tee the occasion of Latics entry into League football.

Gore's spectacular effort nine seconds from time, which made him the first League Cup goal scorer in Latics history, was followed by Corrigan whose second goal against Tranmere was, in the words of manager Ian McNeill, "one of the finest goals you will see anywhere."

Tranmere boss Johnny King thought different. He said, "Our goalkeeper should have swallowed it." A little harsh I think, when Corrigan surprised everyone with the suddenness of his turn and speed of his shot.

For Corrigan, scoring both goals in Latics League Cup home debut, was a tremendous personal achievement, but for one member of the first team squad, the entry into big time football has not been so happy. Centre-half Noel Ward's League Cup debut lasted just 12 minutes and the collision which broke his nose in two places threatened to cast a black cloud over what otherwise was a great start to the season.

But big Noel has never been a good spectator and his eagerness to get back into the thick of the action made him postpone a minor nose operation scheduled for tomorrow, until the close season.

With dedication like that, manager McNeill can have few doubts about the competitive spirit among his players.

As a League club Latics are now able to cultivate young players and what better example of a professional footballer could there be than Noel Ward.

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Home and Away — read NICK DUXBURY in Wigan's own

Evening Post & Chronicle

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Words cannot describe how myself and my Directors feel at the present time—a satisfactory result has been achieved in all the three games we have played as a Football League club and I, as Chairman, must on behalf of the whole Board, heartily congratulate our Manager, Ian McNeill and his team for the way they have accepted the challenge—they have, in only a few weeks time converted themselves from non-League footballers to what appears to be a successful League side.

I would also like to congratulate the spectators. Their behaviour has been impeccable and police reports, both from Tranmere and especially Hereford have been most encouraging. Keep it up and Wigan will become a very respected club in the years to come.

As long as I live I shall not forget the year 1978. Not one person in the town could have prophesied the happenings since New Year's Day. First came the game at Birmingham, where we were congratulated for our performance on the field and off. We then gained the runners-up spot in the NPL which qualified us to become contestants for Football League status. Then the never-to-be-forgotten Football League meeting on 2nd June when we were elected. The hectic time from then to prepare ourselves and the ground for the commencement of the season, and the most wonderful support given to us by numerous voluntary workers.

Now the season has started, everything seems to be going our way. I sincerely hope for the sake of the town in general that success will stay with us for many years to come.

ARTHUR HORROCKS,

Chairman.

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

WEDNESDAY, 23rd AUGUST, 1978. Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

Line-up

WIGAN ATHLETIC

(Blue and White stripes)

- 1 JOHN BROWN
- 2 TOMMY GORE
- 3 JOE HINNIGAN
- 4 JEFF WRIGHT
- 5 NEIL DAVIDS
- 6 IAN GILLIBRAND
- 7 FRANK CORRIGAN
- 8 ALAN CROMPTON
- 9 PETER HOUGHTON
- 10 JOHN WILKIE
- 11 IAN PURDIE
- 12 GEOFF GAY

GRIMSBY TOWN

- 1 NIGEL BATCH
- 2 SHAUN MAWER
- 3 KEVIN MOORE
- 4 JOE WATERS
- 5 GEOFF BARKER
- 6 DEAN CROMBY
- 7 TONY FORD
- 8 TERRY DONOVAN
- 9 MIKE LESTER
- 10 BOBBY MITCHELL
- 11 BOBBY CUMMINGS
- 12 GARY LIDDELL

Referee : Mr. M. P. SCOTT (Nottingham)

Linesmen :

Mr. P. GREEN (Tranmere) Red Flag
Mr. P. SUTER (Liverpool) Yellow Flag

OPINION

by Harold Ashurst

Tonight sees the first home league match at Springfield Park and the guarantee of another bumper crowd for Latics.

The "gate" at last Wednesday's game with Tranmere Rovers was 8,512 and it was easily the biggest of the matches played on that night.

That fact alone must have impressed the watching Football League dignitaries, but what I think will have impressed them more was the behaviour of the fans.

Wigan fans had the reputation of being the best behaved when they were in non-league football and their conduct at Birmingham in the F.A. Cup last season was impeccable.

Of course there are the few "blockheads" among the Wigan fans that can be found anywhere but, thankfully, they don't incite others to cause trouble.

It is so easy to get onto the pitch at Latics after a goal is scored because the wall is so low, but I am sure the club would have no hesitation in putting a fence on top of the wall if people began straying on the pitch and no-one wants that.

Also, fans are not segregated at Springfield Park, but this is something that will come in time.

So, why not make that fact later than sooner, and keep up the behaviour that has given Wigan Athletic fans such a good name throughout the country.



For the Brightest Match Reports and Latest News

read HAROLD ASHURST who writes every Friday in

The Wigan Observer

RESULTS 1978-79

HOME MATCHES IN CAPITALS

Date	Opponents	Score	Gate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Ctr
1978																
Aug 19	Hereford	0-0	5,674	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
" 23	GRIMSBY															
" 26	Reading															
Sept 2	NEWPORT															
" 9	Wimbledon															
" 13	ROCHDALE															
" 16	BRADFORD															
" 23	York															
" 26	Portsmouth															
" 30	SCUNTHORPE															
Oct 7	Huddersfield															
" 14	DONCASTER															
" 18	HALIFAX															
" 21	Barnsley															
Nov 4	NORTHAMPTON															
" 10	Newport															
" 18	READING															
" 25	FA 1															
Dec 2	TORQUAY															
" 9	Darlington															
" 16	FA 2															
" 23	Port Vale															
" 26	CREWE															
" 30	ALDERSHOT															
1979																
Jan 1	Hartlepool															
" 6	Rochdale															
" 13	WIMBLEDON															
" 20	Bradford															
" 27	YORK															
Feb 3	PORTSMOUTH															
" 10	Scunthorpe															
" 17	HUDDERSFIELD															
" 24	Doncaster															
Mar 3	BARNLEY															
" 10	Northampton															
" 17	STOCKPORT															
" 24	Grimby															
" 28	HEREFORD															
" 31	BOURNEMOUTH															
Apr 7	Torquay															
" 13	PORT VALE															
" 14	Crewe															
" 16	HARTLEPOOL															
" 21	Aldershot															
" 24	Halifax															
" 28	DARLINGTON															
May 9	Bournemouth															
" 12	F.A. CUP FINAL															

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978

August— F-A
 18—Blackpool 'A'H 2-1
 25—Southport Res.H

September—

2—Everton 'A'A
 9—Chester 'A'H
 15—Tranmere R. Res.A (Fri.)
 16—
 23—Bradford City Res.H
 30—Liverpool 'A'A

October—

7—Rochdale Res.H
 14—Rochdale Res.A
 21—Carlisle Utd. Res.H
 27—Stockport County 'A'A (Fri.)

November—

11—Tranmere R. Res.H
 18—Crewe Alex 'A'A
 25—Manchester City 'A'A

December—

2—Blackpool 'A'A
 9—Port Vale Res.H
 16—Chester 'A'A
 23—Macclesfield T. Res.H
 26—
 30—Morecambe Res.A

1979

January— F-A
 1—Oldham Ath. Res.H(Mn.)
 6—Morecambe Res.H
 13—Port Vale Res.A
 20—Manchester City 'A'H
 27—Macclesfield T. Res.A

February—

3—Bradford City Res.A
 10—Crewe Alex Res.H
 17—Manchester Utd. 'A'A
 24—Oldham Ath. Res.A

March—

3—Carlisle Res.A
 10—Stockport County 'A'H
 17—Bolton Wanderers 'B'A
 24—Bolton Wanderers 'B'H
 31—Wrexham Res.A

April—

7—Manchester Utd. 'A'H
 13—Southport Res.A (Fri.)
 15—Wrexham Res.H
 16—
 21—Liverpool 'A'H
 28—
 May—

5—Everton 'A'H

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Grimsby Town Pen Pictures

NIGEL BATCH (Goalkeeper). Recruited from Derby County at 18, two years ago. Formerly with Huddersfield Town. Made 18 appearances in his two years at Blundell Park.

GEOFF BARKER (Defender). Joined Hull City from school and moved to Darlington in 1971. Transferred to Reading in 1976, could not settle there, and signed for Grimsby in the summer of 1977 after release from Reading. A central defender.

SHAUN MAWER (Defender). One of several young players to step up into the senior side and stay there. Aged 19 and a right back, he never missed a game after making his debut early last season, playing 42 of the 46 league matches. Comes from Ulceby, near enough to be claimed a local.

KEVIN MOORE (Defender). One of two brothers on the staff, sons of a former Grimsby centre-half. Kevin, a former England Schools International, made 41 appearances last season. He is 20. Played for the reserves when still at school. A left back.

JOE WATERS (Midfield). Captain of the side and formerly with Leicester City from whom Grimsby signed him in January 1976. Was in Eire's European Championship squad against Russia and Switzerland in 1974 but did not play. In Republic of Ireland 22 against France for 1978 World Cup qualifying game in Paris but did not play. He did play and score the equaliser for Eire in a friendly against Turkey in Ankara in 1976. Born in Limerick.

BOB CUMMINGS (Midfield). A Scot who has developed through the club's nursery sides. Bob has established himself in the Grimsby team in midfield, but is equally capable at full back. Age 23 this year, he comes from Glasgow.

BOBBY MITCHELL (Midfield). Grimsby's only close season signing. Given a free transfer by Blackburn Rovers for whom he signed from Sunderland in 1976, having gone straight to Roker Park from school. Comes from South Shields.

TONY FORD (Forward). Product of Grimsby schools' football, he developed through the Town's youth scheme. Lively right winger and another teenager. Youngest to make league debut for Grimsby at 16 years, five months, 20 days, in October, 1975.

TERRY DONOVAN (Forward). A striker with 14 goals last term, he comes from the same Grimsby school as Tony Ford and Kevin Moore. Terry played in the same England school side as Kevin and both joined Grimsby at the same time. Age 20, born in Grimsby the son of a former Grimsby and Everton full back.

MIKE LESTER (Forward). Former Oldham and Manchester City striker, who had a season in America before returning to join Grimsby last season. Aged 25, his talent is expected to attract attention this season.

GARY LIDDELL (Forward). Formerly with Leeds United. Joined Grimsby in March 1977, and scored on his debut. Aged 24, went straight to Leeds from school. A striker with 11 goals in 27 league games last season.

DEAN CROMBY.

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Today's Referee

SCOTT, MARK P. (Nottingham). Started refereeing in 1965. Joined the Football League in 1975 via the East Midland and North Midland Leagues. He is interested in all sports, enjoys playing badminton and is a keen swimmer. Keeps fit for refereeing by running and weight training. Played cricket and football at County level whilst at school. He is Security Officer with a security firm and is married with three daughters.

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HUDDERSFIELD	41 "	NORTHAMPTON	145 "
HALIFAX	45 "	NEWPORT	188 "
BRADFORD	52 "	READING	192 "
PORT VALE	53 "	WIMBLEDON	197 "
BARNSELY	55 "	ALDERSHOT	215 "
DONCASTER	70 "	PORTSMOUTH	240 "
YORK	89 "	BOURNEMOUTH	246 "
SCUNTHORPE	93 "	TORQUAY	282 "
DARLINGTON	116 "		

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